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Attorneys for Defendant
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company

8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

9 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

10 NORMA MCGRATH, individually,

11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.

13 STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE
14 INSURANCE COMPANY; DOE
15 INDIVIDUALS 1-20, inclusive; and ROE
16 CORPORATIONS 1-20, inclusive

17 Defendants.

CASE NO: 2:23-cv-01748-ART-VCF

**JOINT DISCOVERY PLAN AND
SCHEDULING ORDER**

SPECIAL REVIEW REQUESTED

18 Plaintiff, NORMA MCGRATH (“Plaintiff”), by and through her counsel of record Steve
19 Dimopoulos, Esq. and Michael L. Shirts, Esq. of DIMOPOULOS INJURY LAW, and Defendant,
20 STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY, by and through its counsel of
record, M. Caleb Meyer, Esq. and Renee M. Finch, Esq., of MESSNER REEVES, LLP, submit the
21 following Joint Discovery Plan and Scheduling Order (“Plan”). The parties conducted a discovery
22 planning conference on December 8, 2023, and submit the discovery plan for review and approval. The
23 date Defendant, STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY appeared by
24 filing an Answer was November 21, 2023.

25 The standard discovery plan would end discovery on May 20, 2024, with initial expert
disclosures due on March 21, 2024 and rebuttal experts due on April 22, 2024. Given the nature of this
matter, the parties are requesting special review to extend these standard deadlines as demonstrated

1 below. This matter involves allegations of bad faith and thus necessitates corporate discovery to include
2 in-depth written discovery responses and corporate designee deposition(s). The parties are in the process
3 of negotiating an applicable protective order and confidentiality stipulation that will require agreement
4 prior to the disclosure of corporate policies and procedures. The claims file contains over 1,000 pages
5 that will require redaction and the creation of an appropriate privilege log. For the parties to adequately
6 prepare their claims and defenses related to the bad faith allegations, all the appropriate documents must
7 be disclosed, reviewed, and sent to various experts. Plaintiff will request various corporate documents
8 that will have to be internally identified and properly redacted prior to production. Typically, production
9 of internal confidential and proprietary claims documents can include documents in the thousands of
10 pages. This portion of the file alone is anticipated to take several months.

11 Further, both parties seek to identify and retain expert witnesses in preparation for the trial in
12 this matter. Given that the expert disclosure dates are fast approaching on the standard schedule, both
13 parties anticipate that there will be a request for additional time. To avoid a future request of that nature,
14 the parties have agreed to submit a plan that contemplates nine (9) months of discovery instead of the
15 standard six (6) month timeframe.

16 1. **Changes in the timing, form or requirements for Rule 26(a) Disclosures:** The parties
17 have agreed the Rule 26(f) disclosure deadline is January 5, 2024.

18 2. **Subjects on which discovery may be made:** The parties envision propounding written
19 discovery, disclosing policies and procedures pursuant to protective order, conducting depositions of
20 treating physicians, parties, corporate 30(b)(6) designees, and disclosed experts, and obtaining all
21 relevant records through use of subpoena. The parties also may conduct further discovery as may be
22 allowed under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure relating to the allegations set forth in Plaintiff's
23 Complaint and Defendant's Answer.

24 3. **Changes to limitations on discovery:** None.

25 4. **Discovery of electronically stored information:** The parties have implemented
26 litigation holds and taken other reasonable measures to preserve relevant documents, including
27 electronically stored information ("ESI"), that are maintained in locations and systems where such
28 relevant information is likely to be found in accordance with the Rules.

5. Proposed Discovery Schedule for Special Review:

a. Close of Discovery:	August 21, 2024
b. Amend pleadings and add parties:	May 23, 2024
c. Initial Expert Disclosures:	June 24, 2024
d. Rebuttal Expert Disclosures:	July 24, 2024
e. Dispositive Motions:	September 20, 2024
f. Pretrial Order:	October 21, 2024*

*In the event that dispositive motions are filed, the date for filing the joint pretrial order will be suspended until thirty (30) days after decision of the dispositive motions or further order of the Court.

^{6.} **Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3) Disclosures:** All disclosures required by

Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 26(a)(3) and any objections shall be included in the pretrial order submitted pursuant to Paragraph 5 above. Said disclosures, and any objections thereto, must be made and implemented into the pretrial order no later than set forth in Paragraph 5.

7. **Alternative dispute resolution:** The parties certify that they met and conferred about the possibility of using alternative dispute resolution processes including mediation, arbitration and, if applicable, early neutral evaluation. The parties agreed alternative resolution is not feasible at this time, but they will revisit these possibilities in the future.

8. **Alternative forms of case disposition:** The parties certify that they considered consent to trial by a magistrate judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and Fed.R.Civ.P. 73 and the use of the Short Trial Program (General Order 2013-01). The parties agree that trial by magistrate and the Short Trial Program are not appropriate for this case.

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1 9. **Electronic evidence:** The parties certify that they discussed the presentation of electronic
2 evidence to the jury at trial. At this stage they are unable to ascertain the need for electronic evidence
3 and stipulate to meeting and conferring sixty (60) days in advance of trial to reach an agreement and
4 protocol for such evidence, if needed.

5 IT IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

6 Dated this 4th day of January, 2024.

7 MESSNER REEVES, LLP.

8 */s/ Renee M. Finch*

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17 Dated this 4th day of January, 2024.

18 DIMOPOULOS INJURY LAW

19 */s/ Michael L. Shirts*

20 Steve Dimopoulos, Esq.
21 Nevada Bar No. 12729
22 Michael L. Shirts, Esq.
23 Nevada Bar No. 10223
24 6671 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Suite 275
25 Las Vegas, NV 89119
26 Attorneys for Plaintiff

27 IT IS SO ORDERED.



28 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

29 DATED: 1-5-2024

From: Michael Shirts <ms@stevedimopoulos.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 10:30 AM
To: Rhonda Onorato <ROnorato@messner.com>; Kenia Gutierrez Checchi <kg@stevedimopoulos.com>
Cc: Kim Shonfeld <kshonfeld@messner.com>; Renee Finch <rfinch@messner.com>; Michelle Ordway <mordway@messner.com>
Subject: RE: 10685.0033 - McGrath v. SFMAIC - Joint Discovery Plan and Scheduling Order
[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

You can affix my e-signature. Thanks!



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From: Rhonda Onorato <ROnorato@messner.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 9:08 AM
To: Kenia Gutierrez Checchi <kg@stevedimopoulos.com>; Michael Shirts <ms@stevedimopoulos.com>
Cc: Kim Shonfeld <kshonfeld@messner.com>; Renee Finch <rfinch@messner.com>; Michelle Ordway <mordway@messner.com>
Subject: 10685.0033 - McGrath v. SFMAIC - Joint Discovery Plan and Scheduling Order

Attached you will find the proposed Joint Discovery Plan and Scheduling Order for your review and approval. Once you have reviewed, and if you have no revisions, please provide approval for use of your e-signature. Thank you.

RHONDA ONORATO

Paralegal

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